

Sachs Brothers Store
140 West California Street
Jacksonville
Jackson County
Oregon

HABS No. ORE-120

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PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. ORE-120

SACHS BROTHERS STORE

Location: 140 West California Street, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Sachs Brothers Store on the north side of California Street was originally part of a block known as "Kennedy's Row," where Matthew G. Kennedy had a tin shop until 1856. The original structure was evidently quite large,¹ but subsequent reconstructions reduced it to a series of independent store buildings. It served a number of purposes in addition to housing Kennedy's store. In 1856, for example, the County Commissioners paid Kennedy \$153.32 in rent for office space used by the County Auditor and Probate Judge.² Also, before the jail was completed the county rented "the Block House situated on the Lot in the rear of Kennedy's Block, to be used for the purposes of a jail at the rate of one hundred dollars per month payable in County Warrants as long as the Commissioners desire to keep it."³ Kennedy agreed to make certain alterations, including the laying of a floor of solid sleepers in which six ring bolts were to be installed.

Late in 1856, Kennedy began to sell parts of his block. He divided the east part of lot three into two parcels: the eastern parcel he deeded to Dr. G.W. Greer; the western parcel, to Dr. Lewis Ganung.⁴ Dr. Greer then sold his lot to George W. Cool,⁵ who sold it to Dr. Ganung.⁶ In 1858, Ganung also obtained a title from James Cluggage.⁷ Little is known about Dr. Ganung; there is a story, however--most likely apocryphal--about his wife, Zany, and her strong Union sympathies: when the Confederate flag was raised on a flagpole in Jacksonville, Zany marched up California Street with revolver and axe in hand; then having chopped down the pole, she gathered up the flag in her apron and marched back down the street. Never again, the story goes, did the Confederate sympathizers in Jacksonville attempt to raise their colors.⁸

In May 1861, Zany and Lewis Ganung sold their lot on the north side of California Street to Louis and Solomon Sachs.⁹ Later that year, the Sachs Brothers began building their brick store, which they advertised as "The Temple of Fashion."¹⁰ Unlike most of the other stores, Sachs Brothers was not a local business. The Sachs family owned a store in San Francisco--which held a mortgage on the Jacksonville store¹¹--and according to local tradition, they had ties to New York and London retailers as well. The Sachs Brothers were among the most successful merchants in Jacksonville, with Samuel Sachs claiming an income of \$1,500 in 1868.¹²

The store continued to operate until 1872, when the Sachs sold their interest.¹³ In 1878, Reams Brothers opened a store in the building;¹⁴ later, Reams and Wilson had a partnership in the store.¹⁵

Thomas G. Reams had arrived in Jacksonville in 1853¹⁶ and operated the Union Livery Stable.¹⁷ He later became a dry goods merchant--and apparently a successful one, judging from the substantial improvements and additions he made to his residence in the 1880s.¹⁸

FOOTNOTES

¹It is illustrated on Kuchel and Dressel, "Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon T[erritory]," 1856. This view of the town was distributed locally by W.W. Fowler and C.C. Beekman.

²Jackson County Commissioners' Journals, July 9, 1856.

³Ibid., July 9, 1856.

⁴Jackson County Deeds, May 29, 1856, and September 3, 1856.

⁵Ibid., December 13, 1856.

⁶Ibid., January 31, 1857.

⁷Ibid., November 12, 1858.

⁸Frank D. Haines, Jr., Jacksonville (n.p.: Gandee Printing Center, Inc., 1967), pp. 67-8.

⁹Jackson County Deeds, May 1, 1861.

¹⁰Ibid., May 31, 1861. On this date, the Sachs brothers acquired a half interest in the adjoining brick wall so that they could use it as a party wall. The Democratic Times, January 7, 1871.

¹¹Jackson County Deeds, September 27, 1861.

¹²Jacksonville Reveille Weekly, July 4, 1868.

¹³The Democratic Times, December 28, 1872.

¹⁴Ibid., July 26, 1878.

¹⁵Ibid., January 16, 1880.

¹⁶A.G. Walling, History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry, and Coos Counties (Portland, Oregon: The Publishing House of A.G. Walling, 1884), biographical appendix.

¹⁷The Democratic Times, January 14, 1871.

¹⁸The West Shore (August, 1883), illustrates the structure before the alterations that gave it a "modified 'Queen Anne'" appearance, as Marion D. Ross describes it ("Jacksonville, An Oregon Gold-Rush Town," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 12:4, 24).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: The entire building consists of one story.
2. Number of bays: The front (north) facade is three bays wide with a central doorway.
3. Layout, shape: The building is rectangular; it is deeper than it is wide.
4. Wall construction, finish, color: The walls are unpainted brick. Molded and cut bricks were utilized in some of the decorative brickwork.
5. Openings: The three bays of the facade are separated by brick piers that are treated like pilasters. Above the projecting base, each pilaster has a recessed panel on the face; the projecting pilaster caps are connected across the face of the facade by a dentil course. Above each capital, the pilaster continues--again with a recessed panel--and terminates with a second capital that supports the entablature. Below the dentil course which connects the lower caps, segmental arches spring from the pilasters and span the openings. The arches have archivolts of molded bricks on the outer edge and a dentil course applied over the flat inner edge. The tympanums below the arches are filled with brick to the square-headed openings. The central doorway contains double doors with a three-light transom above. Below each of the windows is a single horizontal recessed panel.
6. Roof:
 - a. The roof is flat and slopes downward slightly to the north. On the facade, it is hidden behind a parapet.
 - b. Cornice: The pilasters of the piers support a full, three-part entablature. The architrave is a flat band of bricks. The frieze has deep brackets that support the brick cornice. The brackets are brick, with a molded profile. The cornice is made up of six courses of

brick--the first two form a flat band; the next is a projecting single course; the next is molded with an ovolo face; and the final two courses project slightly. Above the entablature, the parapet is divided into three sections. The central section is wider and rises higher than the flanking sections; it also has a projecting cap of two courses of bricks that the side sections do not have.

B. Description of Interior:

The interior is a single room used as commercial space.

C. Site and Surroundings:

The structure is built along the south property line. On either side of the building there is a one-story, commercial building.

D. Original Appearance:

The central panel of the parapet once carried the name of the business occupying the store.

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